THE SIBT FRAMEWORK

SEND Inclusion, Belonging & Thriving

This framework proposes that children and young people with SEND are most likely to achieve positive outcomes when they can access support, participate meaningfully, experience genuine inclusion, develop a strong sense of belonging and, ultimately, thrive. **Belonging is recognised as a measurable outcome** — and a critical bridge between inclusion, participation, attendance and long-term success. It supports Ofsted & CQC area SEND inspection themes and local co-production, capturing the lived experience of children with SEND and their families as anonymous, area-level insight.

Domain	Core Focus / Key Elements	Key Evaluation Question
1. Access (The Foundation)	• Education & timely support access • Appropriate adjustments • Specialist services • Barriers to attendance removed	*Are children able to access the support and opportunities they need?*
2. Participation	• Meaningful learning engagement • Student voice & decision-making • Extra-curriculars & visits • Friendships & social interaction	*Are children actively participating in learning, relationships and opportunities?*
3. Inclusion	• Staff SEND understanding • Reasonable & responsive teaching • Family partnership • Positive attitudes towards difference	*Do settings and services adapt effectively to meet children's needs?*
4. Belonging (The Critical Bridge)	• Welcome & acceptance • Feeling safe, respected & understood • Connected to others • Valued for exactly who they are	*Do children feel that they belong?*
5. Thriving (The Outcome)	• Emotional wellbeing & confidence • Achievement & progress • Independence & aspirations • Successful transitions / adulthood prep	*Are children flourishing and progressing towards positive futures?*

Co-Production: Parent, Carer & Child Voice

Both perspectives are strictly required to understand children's experiences fully:

• **Parents & Carers give insight into:** Access to support · Experiences of inclusion · Family partnerships · Attendance · Wellbeing

• **Children & Young People give insight into:** Friendships · Safety · Inclusion · Relationships · Belonging · Aspirations

Measuring the Framework: The SEND Experience Index

Success is tracked across the five domains drawing on parent surveys, child & youth surveys, family engagement, existing local SEND data, and qualitative lived-experience evidence. **The purpose is not to rank areas or providers**, but to support collaborative learning, reflection, and continuous area-level improvement.

Summary Concept: *Access is the foundation; thriving is the ultimate outcome.* ***Belonging is the critical bridge*** *between Inclusion and Thriving.*